



Tasmania

BAN TRIAZINES

Chemical-Free Water NOW!

The Campaign –

Chemical-Free Water NOW!

The Tasmanian Greens are moving for a total ban on the use of the Triazine herbicides in Tasmania. We believe this is the responsible action to take as a preventative health measure in the interests of current and future generations, and is also necessary to protect our environment and waterways.

Triazines are a group of chemical herbicides (simazine, atrazine, hexazinone cyanazine) used by both the forestry and the agricultural sector, and are applied by both ground based and aerial spraying. Members of the Triazines group of chemicals, including Hexazinone, Simazine, and Atrazine, are widely used in Tasmania and have been found to contaminate over 20 rivers and water courses, and most recently were found to contaminate ground water at Ross and Port Arthur.

Banning Triazines will be a good first step towards chemical-free water!

Escalating Public Concern:

Despite growing public concern over the ongoing chemical contamination of our waterways and groundwater, and the calls for action getting louder and louder, the Labor government over the last 10 years has continued to turn a deaf ear.

Tasmanians deserve their rivers, drinking water, and properties to be free of chemical contamination, and the first step is to ban Triazines.

Due to the public outcry over ongoing contamination, Forestry Tasmania voluntarily decided to cease using Atrazine in its operations, however it can still be used by others, and the use of simazine is increasing.

If it is good enough for one organisation to recognise the validity of calls to stop using a triazine chemical – then it is a logical extension for Triazines to cease being used statewide.

Why Ban Triazines?

A bit like the tobacco companies in the late 1950's certain parties claim there is no evidence to justify the banning of triazines and continue to activity stall and discredit any effort do so. However there is an increasing body of evidence that has shown triazines potentiate breast and prostate cancer along with producing neurological, reproductive and immunological problems in fish, amphibians, birds, and mammals including humans. Triazines (simazine and atrazine) have been banned by the European Union because of their effects on the environment and concerns regarding human health.

The Tasmanian ALP also recognised the serious health and environmental risks surrounding Triazines when they adopted in the early 1990s the a Policy Platform to ban the use of the Triazine group. They since have appeared to have forgotten that...



Simazine material data safety sheets state it is toxic to aquatic invertebrates and should not be applied areas where surface water is present or in inter-tidal areas. It can travel and leech through the soil and enter ground water, and is not to be applied to sandy or loamy soils where the water table is close to the surface.

Simazine has been found to contaminate the Brid, Georges, Rubicon, Coal, Prosser, Macquarie, Montague River, Brushy Plains Rivulet, Tea Tree Rivulet, Brumby Creek and Western Creek Meander and South Esk Rivers, **and has also contaminated Launceston's drinking water supply the West Tamar.**

Tasmanians want their state to be genuinely 'clean and green'!

Atrazine material data safety sheets state it is toxic to aquatic invertebrates and should not be applied to areas where surface water is present or at inter-tidal areas. Runoff from treated areas may be hazardous, and it should not be applied to lakes, streams or ponds.

Atrazine has been found to contaminate the Duck, Jordon, Rubicon and Liffey Rivers (domestic water supply); **it has also been found to contaminate the Derwent River –the source of Hobart's drinking water supply.**

Affects on Human Health

Simazine and Atrazine are known as endocrine disruptors which in laypersons terms are external substances that impact on the hormones and glands or organs and can affect an organism, its community or its babies.

The use of pesticides including members of the triazine group has been linked to:

- Increases in obesity in the corn belt of the United states which correlate directly with increases in pesticide applications including atrazine
- Increase of Parkinsons disease of up to 75% on average in areas where residents live next to fields that are repeatedly aerially sprayed with one or more pesticides
- Increase risk in type 2 diabetes in children exposed to certain chlorinated pesticides in swimming pools – simazine is used for this purpose
- Increase risk of birth defects, low birth weights and pre-mature births if expectant mothers are exposed to atrazine during pregnancy – especially via drinking water.



A snap shot of widespread contamination events:

According to the Department of Primary Industries, Water and the Environment water testing program atrazine has been detected at the following levels:

Duck River: 0.05, 0.64, 0.72, 0.33, 0.38, 0.15mg/l

Rubicon River: 0.14, 0.13, 0.17, 6.50 mg/l

Chimney Saddle Treatment plant (Esk Water): 0.21

Derwent River: 0.08, 0.05, 0.06 mg/l

Liffey River: 0.09, 7.42mg/l

Jordon River: 0.14

Want to help?

Please support the Greens' motion to ban triazines by contacting your local Member of Parliament and insist that they enact the precautionary principle and vote for a ban. Also encourage them to support the Greens' *Chemical Trespass Bill*-which will ensure all pesticides and herbicides cannot contaminate land and/or water other than the target area without legal penalty.

Come to Parliament

The Motion to ban triazines will be debated in the Parliament on **Wednesday the 28th of October 2009, with debate commencing at 3:45pm, and the vote occurring at 5:05pm.** Please come to the public gallery to witness this important debate!

Join the E Petition:
http://210.8.42.131/view/EPetitions_TAS_Assembly/CurrentEPetition.aspx?PetNum=14&Index=-1,

Visit your Green Member's office or Greens Shop and pick up a Ban Triazines Sticker

Drinking Water Health

Guidelines

Australian Drinking Water Health Guidelines (2004) state:

Atrazine should not be detected in drinking water. If present in drinking water, atrazine would not be a health concern unless the concentration exceeded 0.04 mg/L.

Useful Links

<http://www.ntn.org.au/index.php>

<http://www.water-sos.org/>

http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Pollution_Information_Tasmania

<http://www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/webpages/cart-69stwk?open#MonitoringResults>



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